

Fungi Forage

On Tuesday October 13th, RVCG with the Sorby Natural History Society held a fungi forage with Ziggy (Michael Senkens). Said person is a well known fungi expert who has lead many such forages over the years. Approximately 40 people turned and we didn't move far before eyes were glued to fungi discoveries, in fact just across the road from Rails Rd by the bridge where number 1 find was a Turkey Tail bracket fungus. I made a note of 20 different species we looked at over a 2 hour wander and I have almost certainly missed some.



Most of the group before the start

Turkey Tail Bracket fungus	Sycamore Tar spot
Funnel cap	Slimy Milk cap (grows under birch)
Honey Fungus	Wood Wooly Foot
Earth Ball	Purple Brittle Gill (grows with Oak)
Deceiver	Bedbug Milk Cap
Bonnet	Giant Funnel cap
Hoof Fungus	Amethyst Deceiver
Larch Bolete	Fibre Cap
Sulphur Tuft	Verdigris Agaric
Blackening Brittle Gill	

I think we know that honey fungus is not a good sign for trees but it looks like it has slipped in honey. If I heard correctly the Wood Wooly Foot manifests itself in a fruiting top which we looked at, the real thing is the massive mycelium underground. Interestingly the Bedbug Milk Cap smells of bed bugs although I'm not sure how many of us would know that smell. The Fibrecap however smells of pears but is very poisonous. We spent most of the walk with eyes glued to the ground, so above us we nearly missed the Hoof Fungus growing high up on a tree trunk. This looked exactly

like a hoof and is one of the fungi found in the 5000 year old Otzi the Iceman's back-pack when he was discovered in a glacier on the Austrian/Italian border of the Alps in 1991. He may have used that as dry kindling but other fungi in his pack had pharmaceutical properties as well. Some Fungi looked very photogenic and the Verdigris Agaric certainly had a beautiful green colouration.

All in all it was a very enjoyable experience for all with the weather considerably better than first thing in the morning.

Neil Porter